Vol. III. Numb. 15.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amusements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the most

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domestick.

Perform'd by some of the Society of GENTLEMEN, that were Concern'd in the First VOLUME.

From Friday April 28th. to Monday May 1st. 1710.

Q. GENTLEMEN, *An Acquaintance of mine [illegible] lay the blame of his Vicious Actions on the Devil. Be pleas'd to Undeceive him, and Discant a little on the Subsequent Queries. Whether God gives the Devil a Power to Compel Men to Sin, or whether Sin do's no proceed from the Freedom of the Mind? Your Solution will be an Obligation on,*

Your Admirer, J°. Chap.

A. Every Man is Tempted, says St. *James, when he is drawn aside of his own Lust and Enticed.* In which it is Remarkable that he ascribes the Efficacy of Temptation to the Corrupt and Vicious Inclinations of Men. It is not to be denied that the Devil has some share in the Temptations of Men: For he is very Active in administring the Occasions of Sin, and when he is permitted to make near Approaches, he excites them to comply with these Temptations, which is confirmed by the Instances of his entring into *Judas*, and filling the Heart of *Ananias*. For by Notorious Wickedness and Impiety Men give Admission to him, and by the just Judgment of God he is then permitted to Exercise greater Dominion over them. But still he has no Power to compel Men to Wickedness. His Temptations may sometimes be so violent as to Extenuate the Crime, but never so forcible as wholly to Excuse it. In effect it may safely be believed, that most of the Wickedness that is Committed in the World proceed from the Evil Motions of their own Minds. For as they are free Agents they have the Power of doing Good and Evil in a great Measure in themselves; and therefore they have little Reason to think they can excuse themselves, by laying the Blame of their Sins upon the Temptations of the Devil, since the Success of these is owing to their Voluntary Compliance with them.

Q. Apollo, *In the* 1st *of* Sam. *the* 17th Chap. Jesse *sends* David *to his Brethren with a Present, and bids him see how they Fare and take their Pledge. Pray, let me know the meaning of taking their Pledge. And you will much Oblige, your Humble Servant and Admirer.* E. J

A. Commentators differ in their Sense of this Phrase. Some wou'd have it to mean the taking of Money in order to Redeem what perhaps his Brethren had Pawn'd to supply their Necessities. Others, the bringing back of some Token from them, to *Jesse*, to satisfy him of their Welfare. Others, with more probability think, that they had sent to their Father for Necessaries, and had given the Messenger a Token to satisfy him it was from them, which *Jesse* acknowledging, orders *David* to take back with him. It is not Material which of these three Senses you prefer.

Q. Gentlemen, *Why are some People if spoke hastily to, or Charged with any thing, though they are clear of it, have so sudden a Flushing in the Face, with a sort of Heat all over. This being a great Obstruction both in Business and Company and very Unbecoming in a Man, and I believe proceeding rather from some Infirmity than any Natural Cause, I shall be Oblig'd to you if you can direct to any thing that will prevent it in your Admirer, and*

Humble Servant, J. M.

A. Such Disorders as are caused by the Passions of the Mind are seldom Cured by Physick, nor can the Effect be removed till the Cause is taken away. Now the only Means to prevent the Disorders of the Passions are Reason and Resolution, by the strength of which we doubt not but you may overcome this Infirmity whether owing to Custom or Nature. Every Body is apt indeed to be moved a little at a false Accusation, but some discover this concern in their Face sooner than others because of the Fineness of the Complection or the Tenderness and Looseness of the Skin which has more of the Blood that the Animal Spirits being thus incited endeavor to throw out in the Superficies of the Body. And this is one Reason why Women are sooner seen to blush than Men. And if your Case be of the like Nature, there is scarce any Remedy for it.

Q. Gentlemen, *Is there any such Book as an* English Grammar, *Teaching whatsoever you know to be necessary for attaining, and right Understanding of the* English Tongue, *as also an* English Dictionary *telling the meaning of Words. I have by me Mr.* Cole's, *but that is in a great many things Deficient,* viz. *as want of Words, and then not Explaining the Words themselves; as for instance, I want to know the meaning of the Word (Haberdasher) he tells us a Haberdasher of Hats is a Seller of them. I knew that long before. But I do not suppose that the Word (Haberdasher) signifies properly a Seller. Pray, direct where the Books may be had, and what the Price of them, for* Gentlemen, *Your most*

Humble Servant, T. S.

A. D. *Walis*'s Grammar for the *English* Tongue is a Book any where to be met with, and wou'd be of general Use to our Country-men, if it were not for the Benefit of Foreigners Writ in *Latin.* The best *English* Dictionary for the Purpose you mention of all that we have seen is *Minshew's Guide to Tongues*, a Book in Folio, Publish'd in the time of King *James* the 1st. in which not only the proper Signification of all *English* Words, but also their Etymology and Affinity with those of other Languages are shewn.

Q. Gentlemen, *Pray, from whence proceedeth Sneezing. But coiefly, how is this sudaen noisy shaking, momentary (and why but momentary) motion effected.*

There was a time when Sneezing was a sign of Death. Now 'tis a sign of Recovery in a Sick Body. Pray, how so.

A. Any Acrimonious Matter touching the Fibres of the Olfactory Nerve will cause Sneezing; and so we see it often caused by a too great Light striking the Eyes and so affecting the Lacrymal Glands which have a Communication with the inner Membranes of the Nose; or by a sharp Pungent Smell or Vapor; or by a thin Acid Humor flowing from the Head, or by any Irritation of the Ventricle or Intestines from which Malady Nature endeavors to discharge itself by way of Sneezing, which is a sort of Convulsive Motion, caused by a sudden Rarifaction and Expansion of the Animal Spirits, and is not unlike the Explosion of Gun-Powder when set on Fire. For as Dr. *Willis* in his *Pathalegia cerebri* Ingeniously supposes the Spirituosaline Particles of the Spirits that possess the Muscular Fibres, may meet with Nitro-Sulphureous Particles of a different Kind proceeding from the Blood of the Arteries which flows among these Fibres. As often therefore as these Particles of both Kinds, being like Nitre and Sulphur combined together, are moved by any Instinct of Motion conveyed to them by the Nerves, which is like a Match to Gunpowder, they being as it were on a sudden discharged, distend the Muscles and cause a violent Concussion of the whole Body. But 'tis a mistake to think that Sneezing is any more a sign of Recovery now than formerly; for it is still sometimes a forerunner of dangerous Distempers as *Catarrhs* and *Epilepsies*, which have likewise been sometimes Epidemical. And this is the Occasion of the Custom of Blessing People when they Sneeze.

Q. Ingenious Gentlemen, *Two Ladies of my Acquaintance, the Eldest* Celinda, *and the Youngest* Ethelia, *both Discreet and Pretty Ladies, Contracted in their Child-hood such a Friendship, that till this time, they never had the least Difference, but in pleasing each other were entirely satisfied. It happened one Evening that* Celinda *raised a Discourse about* Dr. Sacheverell, *wherein they were so hot, that* Ethelia *received a great many Affronts, and doubtless the other Lady thinks herself very much Affronted in being Contradicted by one Younger than herself. Now, most Worthy Sirs, I desire to know which of these Ladies ought to Comply to ask the other's Pardon,* Celinda *being against, and* Ethelia *for the* Doctor; *or whether this Difference is sufficient to break their long Contracted Friendship. Your speedy Answer will much Oblige the Young Ladies, who will make it their Law and are resolved not to Visit, nor come together till then, and infinitely Oblige your Admirer and*

Subscriber, PHYLLIS.

A. Madam, In Compliance to your Request, we shall Post-pone the Solution of many Important Queries, for the sake of doing so good an Office as Reconciling your two Pretty Ladies. We are far from thinking their Present Difference a sufficient Ground for a continued Pique; but our Law is, that whoever offends against the Laws of Civil Conversation by starting a Subject for an ungrateful Dispute, shall be the first that shall endeavor to remove the ill Consequences that attend it. And since *Celinda* was the Aggressor, it is her Part first to acknowledge the Offence. This the Lady perhaps will think a Severe Imposition; neither is it agreeable to the Rules of strict Friendship to insist upon the Punctilio of Acknowledgments. We think therefore their Difference may be more agreably Compounded by a total Silence and Oblivion, and by meeting together again as if nothing had passed amiss.

Q. Gentlemen, *It was my misfortune to fall in Love with a Woman, whom Addressing, I received a suitable Return from,* &c.

A. The Purport of your Question being a Point in Law, we advise you to go to Council; having often declared, we wou'd not intermeddle with Affairs of that Kind.

POEMS.

Q. *ALAS! your Sacred precepts all are vain;*
Nor can the Power of Æsculapian Art
Assuage, or Heal, the Gangrene of my Soul,
Infected with the most accursed Crimes,
Of Murder, Rapine, Perjury and Lust.
Dreadful Remembrance! O give way, my Brain,
To wild Distraction, senseless Cure of woe!
And Conscientious Guilt, which like a Dart,
With bearded shafts inclos'd within the Wound
At every probe, gives most Corroding Pain.
On Earth, I am scorn'd by all the Good and Brave,
And justly Branded with the Odious Names
Of Atheist, Villain, Sodomite and Theif;
Shun'd and avoided as a baleful pest,
And in Derision pointed at by all.
And shall I? can I hope? that Beauteous Heav'n,
Will e'er be fit for so Deform'd a Wretch,
To be a Glorious Habitant therein,
No! no! it is impossible, for none,
But those who are unsullied, pure and white,
Shall gain Admittance to it's dazling bliss,
For such as me, a fitter State's assign'd,
Suiting my past Delights, where Grief and Pain,

With

With Complicated pangs, shall force my Tongue,
To Curse my self with Imprecations dire:
Whilst Soul and Body bear alternate Pains
Of Fire and Frost, in Everlasting Chains.
What shall I do? ———

A. Revenge your self upon the *Man of Sin,*
Nature Corrupt, which brought this dire Despair:
Wipe off the Stains from your Sullied Soul,
B' unfeign'd Contrition, and Repentance true:
This may allay the Infection of your Crimes,
Tho' not restore Primævous Innocence,
For He *almost is Innocent that Repents,*
And with just Indignation Sins detests,
Which were before His *Darlings* and Delight.
Nought but the Abhorrence of those Impious Facts,
Can e'er restore you to your self again,
And make you capable of Solid Bliss
In Heav'n above for Penitents ordained.
Your *Lust* will *then* b' absorpt in *Heavenly Love,*
As Fire extinguish'd by th' Irradiant Sun.
Your *Rapine then*, will Heav'n it self assault,
Heav'n glad such pleasing *Violence* t' Embrace.
Your *MURDERS then*, when Blood, like *Abels,* (Cries;
That of the *Lamb of God*, Our Sacrifice,
Will wash you Clean, and for those Sins attone,
So you but them with *Detestation* own.
In short, two Contraries your Bliss must prove,
Hate of your self; and *Christ's* Eternal *Love.*

Q. *Speak*, Mighty Bards, *for you or none can tell,*
Or Chant, great Nature's wonders half so well,
Whence springs the Cause when needful Sleep do's (*bind*
Our weary'd Faculties, in Slumbers kind,
And Nature is supinely laid to rest,
That Sneezing never do's attack our Breast,
But Waking like quick Peal's of Thunder Storm,
Through our arch't Roof, and do's our Sense Alarm.
And why, our Yawning so Infectious is,
Since Friend or Foe, alike it doth not miss,
It's powerful, and it's all commanding Force,
For sight or hearing gives it speedy Course,
Which in Convulsive manner strains our Jaws,
And Tyrant like Conforms us to it's Laws.

Learned Gentlemen, *Your Answer will Infinitely Oblige, Your Servant,* H——r B——r.

A. All *Sneezing* from an Irritation grows,
Of the Tenxious Membranes of the Nose,
Struck with an Impulse of Intruding Air,
Whose Poynant Particles with violence bear,
On the small Nervous Filements and Cause
A *Motion*, opposite to Nature's Laws,
Or other Particles which may in spite
Of Her, th' Involuntary Springs excite;
Which sudden Motion we *Convulsive* call,
An *Harmless Malady* in General;
Sleeping, or not, affecting all Mankind,
As th' open Pores let in the *pungent* Wind.
Hence some by *Sneezing from* deep *Slumbers* rise,
As if struck unexpected with Surprize.
But *Waking Animals* it *most* attacks,
And *more frequent Succussation* shakes,
Because the *Soul's out-guards*, the *Spirits* then
More vigilant against th' Invasion unforeseen,
Rise at the *first Assault* t' acquaint the Soul,
What Force wou'd *from abroad* Her Power (Controul;
So with joynt-strength th' *Invading* Foe receive
Warmly, and from th' endanger'd Confines drive.

As to the Question about *Gaping being Infectious,* be pleas'd, *Madam*, to Consult our First Volume.

Ad OXONIENSES.

Q. *I sent to you, you* Oxford *Ass,*
To know why Water would not pass
Out of full Bottle, made of Glass.
Your Answer plainly this declares,
That you deserve to lose your Ears.
You say, that Nature wont admit,
A Vacuum, *a Space in it:*
Therefore when Water fills a Bottle,
(More than Brains your empty Noddle)
There is no room for it to pass,
And so it stays bound up i'th' Glass:
By the same reason you might prove,
That nothing in this World can move.
Supposing then this World is fill'd,
And Vacuum *no place twill yeild;*
Then I suppose that I may say,
More rare to Solids do give way.
So Water being more gross than Air,
It might run out 'fore you're aware,
Its place being fill'd with yeilding Air:
But to speak truth, your empty Scull
Shows that all things are not so full;
Hence it is, your want of Brains,
Gives rise unto your foolish Strains,
For such we find 'em without much pains.
Do ye think that you with dull similes,
(Now since Apollo's *writ) can please.*
I'd have you then return to Oxford,
Your Tutor he deserves a Box for't,
To send you here wise as an Ox *forth.*

A. Your Philosophic Notion shines,
With equal Luster, with your Lines;
So void of *Sense*, as if 'twere Treason,
To offer at substantial Reason;
Joyn'd with such wretched, hobbling Meeter,
A Grain Cart on the Stones, sounds sweeter.

You

You own our Argument, altho'
You don't, wherein you yield it, know.
You say the Water out may come,
And yielding Air supply's its room;
Don't this imply a *Vacuum*'s there,
If void of Water and of Air;
Which since impossible, then how,
'Till Air gets in can th' Water flow;
But when the Glass inverted stands,
The Water all the Vent commands,
How can the Air then (senseless Elf)
Pass closer Bodies than it self;
And what to thee, wou'd make it plain,
(If thou one Atome hadst of Brain)
Altho' with smallest Point you make
A Vent, by which it Air may take,
You'll find the Water soon descended,
Be'ng 'gainst a *Vacuum* defended.
Cease then, thou *Philosophick Fool*,
These Whims, and go again to School.

☞ On *Wednesday* next being the Third of this Instant *May*, will be Published the *Index* to the Second Volume, any Person may have them of the Men in their Walks, or of *J. Mayo*, over against *Water-Lane*, *Fleet-Street*. Where you may have whole Sets of the Second Volume, Bound or Unbound, or Single Sheets to make up Sets.

SIR,

THE Advices from Cambray May the 2d are, that the Marechal de Villars was arrived there that Evening; that the Troops of the French King's Houshold were arrived in the Camp in a worse Condition than last Year, and others arrive daily. The Letters from Tournay dated May 3d, say, that they expected the Trenches would be opened every day; that some think the Batteries for Eighty-six heavy Cannon, and Thirty-three Mortars, cou'd not be finished till the 12th, that 'tis the Opinion of the Engineers that the Garrison will be obliged to surrender in eight or ten Days after they begin to Fire, that the Marechal de Artagnan has extended his Camp from Thune St. Martin to Norgny and has taken up his Head Quarters at the Castle of Essars over against the Scheld, and that he has guarded all the Passes over the River with Dragoons to prevent the Desertion of the Soldeirs: Tis advised from Ghent, that the Confederates are far advanced in Draining the Water from about Doway; that on the 5th in the Evening the Trenches were opened, at two Attacks with 3000 Men supported by 4 Batalians at each attack; that notwithstanding the prodigious fire the Enemy made, they had but three Men killed; that the Enemy have raised five Batteries of 3 Cannon each without the Gate of Notre Dame to hinder the approach of our Men; that the Siege is to be carried on by twelve thousand Britains, as many Dutch and ten thousand Germans, under General Fagel; that the Allies have taken the Castle of Doignonville near Doway and made 120 Men in it Prisoners of War. Which is all from Yours, *&c.*

Any Persons in Town may have these Papers brought to their Houses at 3*s.* *per* Quarter, by directing to Mr. *Carter*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in St. *Paul's Church-yard*, Mr. *Bickerton*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in *Little-Britain*, or to the Printer hereof, superscrib'd to the *British Apollo*. N. B. All that begin within the Quarter to pay on Quarter-day a Penny for each Paper they have had. All Questions to be directed in like manner, but none will be answer'd out of the Country, where Postage is not paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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MR. *Roger Grant*, OCULIST, who has been so successful in Couching the Cataract and Curing all other Curable Distempers in the Eyes, lives in St. *Christopher's Church-Yard*, where he has lately brought to Sight these Persons under-nam'd. *W. Jones*, at *Newington-Butts*, aged 20, born blind, restored to Sight in 5 Minutes. *Robert Wedell*, in *Fishmonger's-Hospital*, *Newington*, aged 70, restored to Sight in 2 Minutes. *Mary Dearing*, in *Swan-Yard* near *Newgate*, aged 75, restored to Sight in one Minute. *Elizabeth Wild*, in *Bell-Alley Goswell-Street*, blind of one Eye 23 Years, restored to Sight in 5 Minutes. *Will Dixon*, in *Chelsea-College*, aged 87, restor'd to Sight in 5 Minutes. *John Myers* on *Saffron-Hill*, blind by Obstruction of the *Optick Nerves*, restor'd to Sight in a little time. Mr. *Williams*, in *Peter-Street Old Soho*. *Anne Andrews* in *Goswell-Street*. *Saywell Luthen*, at *Adam's Coffee-House Chancery-Lane*. *Anne Allen*, in *Nightingal-Lane*. *Anne Lee*, at the *Cross-keys* Tavern lower-end of St. *Martin's-Lane Strand*. Mr. *Godby*, Porter, near *Fishmonger's-Hall*, *Thames-Street*. *NOTE*, These Persons with 45 others have been all cur'd by the aforesaid Mr. *Grant* since *Sept.* 1708.

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